

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EUR-25 AF-10 EB-11 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0574

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9307

1. WHILE WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM IT, PRESS CLAIMS THAT GOI HAS BEGUN PREPARATIONS FOR PEACE CONFERENCE. MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEGUN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, TO BE FOLLOWED IN NEAR FUTURE BY CABINET DISCUSSION, TO FORMULATE GOI NEGOTIATING POSITION AT LEAST ON ISSUES WHICH MIGHT ARISE AT OPENING STAGES OF PEACE CONFERENCE. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AS WELL AS FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES REPORTEDLY ARE ESTABLISHING WORKING TEAMS TO BACKSTOP THESE PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS.

2. UNTIL NOW GOI REPORTEDLY HAS ADDRESSED ITSELF ONLY TO IMMEDIATE ISSUES CONNECTED WITH CEASEFIRE AND SIX POINT AGREEMENT, BUT PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT SEVERAL IDEAS ARE BEGINNING TO CRYSTALLIZE AMONG SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: A) ANY PEACE AGREEMENT WILL HAVE TO COME IN STAGES; B) ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS IF IT IS GOING TO BE ASKED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS; C) MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT WILL HAVE TO GO BEYOND BORDER DEMARCATIONS TO AFFECT
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QUALITATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB NEIGHBORS,

SUCH AS INITIATION OF COMMERCIAL CONTACTS.

3. ANOTHER PROBLEM BEGINNING TO SURFACE IS NATURE OF GOI REPRESENTATION AT PEACE CONFERENCE. WE HAVE HEARD, AS SOME PRESS ITEMS CLAIM, THAT MRS MEIR WOULD PREFER TO SEND GENERAL YARIV, WHO HAS EMERGED AS HER CLOSE ADVISER AND AS KEY NEGOTIATING FIGURE, RATHER THAN EBAN. STORY GOES THAT IF EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS NEVERTHELESS INSIST ON REPRESENTATION AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, SHE MAY HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER SOLUTION, PERHAPS SENDING BOTH OF THEM TO CONFERENCE.

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